

The Utah Commission on Volunteers

Volunteer Voice



A newsletter for those in the volunteer and service sectors in Utah

From the Executive Director...

Happy New Year! It's my favorite time of year for reflecting on the lessons learned in the past year and for setting goals for an exciting new year. Little did I know when I assumed the role of Executive Director on August 25 that within the week the Commission on Volunteers would be responding to Governor Huntsman's call to service to provide a safe haven at Camp Williams for over 500 of the evacuees devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Utahns responded overwhelmingly by volunteering both goods and services. The Utah Katrina Relief Hotline, staffed by the Department of Health, received over 7,000 calls in the first week. Over 1,400 volunteers set up and manned a clothing distribution store for the entire month of September at Camp Williams, donating more than 4,500 hours of service. Hundreds of volunteers helped to prepare and serve meals with Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Services, while others assisted at the reception center, the child care center and the recreation center. I know I speak for my staff, for all the state agencies and organizations that were involved at Camp Williams and for Utah's generous and compassionate volunteers, when I say we cannot put a price tag on what we learned when we reached out to help those who were affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Two new program managers came aboard during September, Lani Nisbet and Candace Powers, to oversee and build Citizen Corps and AmeriCorps programs respectively. Sanobi Johnson,

new Administrative Assistant, has been wearing another hat, nearly fulltime since mid-September, as a state coordinator of housing and utilities assistance for the Gulf Coast families who relocated here in Utah after Katrina. Stephanie Brown promotes and oversees "all things youth service" for the state of Utah and LaDawn Stoddard, our contract specialist, assumes an additional role as Training Coordinator. The Commission on Volunteers also takes the lead on the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Program beginning this month and is currently recruiting a full-time CERT Coordinator. With this team in place, hold onto your hats for 2006!

The theme of our 2006 Utah Conference on Service is a result of several months of discussions with many of you, reflecting on the past year's experiences and looking forward to a time of growth and new partnerships. I invite you to see yourself as an important part of this positive direction for the state of Utah. As volunteer coordinators, national service partners and community leaders, we need you as participants and role models at our Conference in May to help us carry the banner of "Be Ready Utah-Ready to Serve, Ready to Prosper" to all Utahns.

As you are working to build your communities, I wish you continued success and prosperity!

-Kathy Hyde, Executive Director

Lieutenant Governor's Corner

As we begin a new year, I'd like to thank each and every person involved with volunteering throughout Utah. I have witnessed first-hand the priceless support you have offered to those in need – whether your service was extended to those devastated by severe flooding in St. George or assisting the victims of Hurricane Katrina or the many other countless opportunities you have had to help a neighbor in need – you have made, and continue to make a difference.

On behalf of Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr., I applaud your efforts and look forward to a prosperous new year.

Gary R. Herbert
Lieutenant Governor

Save the Date!

The Utah Commission on Volunteers presents

2006 Utah Conference on Service and Volunteerism *"Be Ready Utah—Ready to Serve, Ready to Prosper"*

In partnership with Utah Citizen Corps, The Corporation for National and Community Service, Utah Campus Compact, Utah Department of Public Safety, and Utah State Office of Education.

May 22-24, 2006

The Yarrow, Resort Hotel and Conference Center
Park City, Utah

Visit www.volunteers.utah.gov for more information.



From l-r: Lani Nisbet, Kathy Hyde, Stephanie Brown, LaDawn Stoddard, Candace Powers, Sanobi Johnson

AmeriCorps: What's in Store



When you reach for the stars you may not quite get one, but you won't come up with a handful of mud either. AmeriCorps members are reaching for the

stars with a purpose, a vision of a better possibility. AmeriCorps grants are provided to public and nonprofit organizations that sponsor service programs around the state and throughout the country. The variety of enabled services include faith-based and community organizations, higher education institutions, and public agencies. Grants assist these groups in recruiting, training and placing AmeriCorps members to meet critical community needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

In late September of 2005, Candace Powers became Program Manager for the eight AmeriCorps programs within the State of Utah. Through this adjustment period, programs have continued to serve the State in a variety of ways, all designed with the community in mind. AmeriCorps programs engage members in direct service and capacity-building for the purpose of addressing unmet community needs such as tutoring and mentoring youth and families, restoring parks and maintain-

ing wilderness areas, providing medical care in communities of lesser resource while increasing the knowledge and capacity of its members as well as volunteers. AmeriCorps members have mobilized community volunteers and greatly strengthened the capacity of those organizations where they serve.

AmeriCorps Programs in Utah currently include: AmeriCorps-Utah Conservation Corps (Logan), AmeriCorps and the Medically Underserved in Utah (Salt Lake City), Boys & Girls Club of Utah County (Provo), Cache County After School Program (Logan), Family Literacy (Cedar City), Office of Academic Internships (BYU), Utah AmeriCorps Literacy Initiative (Ogden), and the Youth Garden Project AmeriCorps Program (Moab).

It is my belief that an inner fire is one of the most important thing mankind possesses. AmeriCorps provides an outlet for 'inner fires' to begin change within communities. We see the greater good through the eyes of visionaries willing to make the effort and as 2006 begins, we feel the buzz of energy and eagerness to create community harmony through Members and volunteers. We shall train, maintain and gain together.

-Candace Powers, Program Manager

Meet the Staff of the Utah Commission on Volunteers

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Citizen Corps Challenge



prepared. Thousands of calls to Volunteer Centers: signs that we realize that "help" in an emergency begins with "us".

It was the worst of signs.....

Hurricanes, tornadoes, wild fires, earthquakes, tsunamis, long term power outages: *signs that we are all vulnerable, oftentimes without warning.* Long lines of people waiting for food, water, and basic medical care: *signs that we are not prepared.* Overwhelmed hospitals, police departments, and First Responders: *signs that we are not properly trained and utilized as volunteers.*

It was the best of signs..... Citizens quietly stepping up to offer their homes, trailers, and RV's; donating clothes, toys, and cash; offering emotional support, friendship, and jobs: *signs that we care.....signs that we unite in the feeling of "community" to help our "neighbors" in times of need.* Growing requests for information about food storage and basic CPR instruction: *signs that we are beginning to understand the importance of being*

Months after the disasters hit, newspaper headlines still remind us about the need to prepare, to train, to volunteer. The Utah Citizen Corps *Mission* is "To harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared". The UCC *Challenge* is to help YOU, the city, county, and regional Citizen Corps Councils make that happen! We are excited as we look forward to 2006 and all the possibilities it presents. This past year we have seen wonderful conferences and workshops provided by the Layton CCC, the Southern Utah Regional CCC, and our affiliate The Utah Council on Crime Prevention. There has been growth of the CERT, TeenSERT, VIPS, Fire Corps, MRC and Neighborhood

Watch programs within your Councils.

You have raised the bar. We want to support your grand efforts in 2006 through a state-wide media campaign, regional trainings, networking opportunities, newsletters, and by helping to build better communication between Councils. You will not want to miss the 2006 Utah Conference on Service, "Be Ready Utah- Ready to Serve, Ready to Prosper" in May!

I have very much enjoyed getting to know many of you over these past few months, and have learned so much from attending your meetings. I hope to be able to meet with all of you before too long. Please continue to share with us your successes, your challenges, your lessons learned, and your goals. Together, we can help our communities grow "safer, stronger, and better prepared"!

-Lani Nisbet, Program Manager

Youth Service

Stephanie Brown is our new Youth Engaged in Service (YES) Ambassador. Sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation, Stephanie is one of only five YES Ambassadors in the country and is hosted by the Commission to promote youth service in Utah.

We are busily planning our 2006 Utah Youth Summit which will be held July 18-20 at the University of Utah. This year we are very excited to announce our partnership with First Lady Mary Kaye Huntsman on the Youth Summit. She is leading a statewide initiative called "Power in You" designed to help young people face the obstacles in their lives. Her goal is to "help every young person reach deep inside and truly realize the enormity of power that dwells within." We would like to continue that message at the summit and use the

power within each of us to make positive change and better our communities.

The theme will be "The Power in You... To Make a Difference." To learn more about First Lady Huntsman's program visit <http://powerinyou.org/>



Stephanie will be meeting Youth City Councils at the 2006 Day with the Legislature on January 18. For more information, contact Emily at the Utah League of Cities and Towns, 1-800-852-8528. Stephanie would love to hear more about how you are engaging youth in service. She can be reached at 801-538-8684 or yesambassador@utah.gov.

For more information contact the Utah Commission on Volunteers

www.volunteers.utah.gov

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